

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer-implemented method of exporting at least some of a body of data into
2 a dump file, said method comprising the steps of:

3 subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets;
4 storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and
5 storing one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump
6 file by performing the following steps for each of the one or more selected
7 subsets:
8 (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and
9 (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into a
2 plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of
3 subsets based on time-related information contained in the body of data.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into a
2 plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of
3 subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into the
2 plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data includes the
3 step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets based on numerical
4 information contained in the body of data.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of subdividing the body of data into the
2 plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data includes the
3 step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets alphabetically based on
4 textual information contained in the body of data.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the plurality of
2 subsets in respective storage devices.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing metadata descriptive of the
2 body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning metadata
3 descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing a marker descriptive of said
2 selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing a name of said selected subset
3 in the dump file.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing data contained in said selected
2 subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data contained in selected subset
3 in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker in the dump file.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a single
3 selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a fewer
3 number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of granting permission to a
2 user to export said body of data.

1 13. A computer-implemented method of importing data into a body of data
2 comprising the steps of:
3 accessing a dump file containing one or more subset markers descriptive of a
4 respective subset of the data, each of said one or more subset markers associated
5 with data belonging to the respective subset;
6 determining whether a marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of a
7 selected subset; and
8 if the marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of the selected subset,
9 then importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body of data.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of subdividing the body of
2 data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria;
3 wherein the step of importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body
4 of data includes the step of importing the data into subsets of the table according
5 to said partitioning criteria.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of the step of subdividing the body of
2 data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria includes the steps of:
3 accessing metadata stored in the dump file descriptive of said partitioning criteria;
4 and
5 creating the partitioned table based on the metadata.

1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of importing the data associated with
2 the subset marker into the body of data includes the step of storing the data associated the
3 subset marker into a respective storage device.

1 17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of granting permission to a
2 user to import into said body of data.

1 18. A computer-implemented method of repartitioning a body of data, subdivided
2 into a plurality of subsets, comprising the steps of:
3 exporting one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets of the
4 body of data into a dump file;
5 reconfiguring the body of data according to new partitioning criteria; and
6 importing data exported into the dump file into the body of data according to said
7 new partitioning criteria.

1 19. The method of claim 18, the step of exporting one or more selected subsets from
2 among the plurality of subsets of the body of data into a dump file includes the steps of:
3 storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and
4 storing the one or more selected subsets in the dump file by performing the following
5 steps for each of the one or more selected subsets:
6 (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and
7 (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing metadata descriptive of the
2 body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning metadata
3 descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing a marker descriptive of said
2 selected subset in the dump file includes storing a name of said selected subset in the
3 dump file.

1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing data contained in said
2 selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data contained in
3 selected subset in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker in the dump
4 file.

1 23. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a single
3 selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1 24. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of storing one or more selected subsets
2 from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the step of storing a fewer
3 number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of subsets in the dump file.

1 25. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
2 granting permission to a user to export from said body of data; and
3 granting permission to the user to import into said body of data.

1 26. A computer-readable medium bearing sequences of instructions for exporting at
2 least some of a body of data into a dump file, said sequences of instructions comprising
3 sequences of instructions for performing the steps of:
4 subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets;
5 storing metadata descriptive of the body of data in the dump file; and

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6 storing one or more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump
7 file by performing the following steps for each of the one or more selected
8 subsets:
9 (a) storing a marker descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file, and
10 (b) storing data contained in said selected subset in the dump file.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into a plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data
3 into the plurality of subsets based on time-related information contained in the body of
4 data.

1 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into a plurality of subsets includes the step of subdividing the body of data
3 into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the body of data.

1 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the
3 body of data includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets
4 based on numerical information contained in the body of data.

1 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the step of subdividing the
2 body of data into the plurality of subsets based on serial information contained in the
3 body of data includes the step of subdividing the body of data into the plurality of subsets
4 alphabetically based on textual information contained in the body of data.

1 31. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing metadata
2 descriptive of the body of data in the dump file includes the step of storing partitioning
3 metadata descriptive of how the body of data is subdivided into said plurality of subsets.

1 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing a marker
2 descriptive of said selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing a name of
3 said selected subset in the dump file.

1 33. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing data
2 contained in said selected subset in the dump file includes the step of storing said data
3 contained in selected subset in the dump file immediately after storing the subset marker
4 in the dump file.

1 34. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing one or
2 more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the
3 step of storing a single selected subset from among the plurality of subsets in the dump
4 file.

1 35. The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of storing one or
2 more selected subsets from among the plurality of subsets in the dump file includes the
3 step of storing a fewer number of selected subsets than the number of the plurality of
4 subsets in the dump file.

1 36. A computer-readable medium bearing sequences of instructions for importing
2 data into a body of data, said sequences of instructions comprising sequences of
3 instructions for performing the steps of:

4 accessing a dump file containing one or more subset markers descriptive of a
5 respective subset of the data, each of said one or more subset markers associated
6 with data belonging to the respective subset;
7 determining whether a marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of a
8 selected subset; and
9 if the marker of said one or more subset markers is descriptive of the selected subset,
10 then importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body of data.

1 37. The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein said sequences of
2 instructions further comprising sequences of instructions for performing the step of
3 subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria;
4 wherein the step of importing the data associated with the subset marker into the body
5 of data includes the step of importing the data into subsets of the table according
6 to said partitioning criteria.

1 38. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the step of the step of
2 subdividing the body of data into a plurality of subsets according to partitioning criteria
3 includes the steps of:
4 accessing metadata stored in the dump file descriptive of said partitioning criteria;
5 and
6 creating the partitioned table based on the metadata.

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